

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please substitute the following version of the Abstract, with changes shown by strikethrough (for deletions) or underlining (for added matter):

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Covering panel(s) for floors have a groove (12) along at least one edge and have a tongue (6) along another edge (17). Panels (1, 2) to be joined to one another can be joined by inserting the tongue (6) into the groove (12). A bead (8) made of an adhesive and/or plastic is placed on or affixed to at least one tongue surface (7). According to the invention, a recess (3) is formed in the tongue surface (7) and serves to accommodate the bead (8), and a detent recess (5), which is delimited by a detent surface (4), is formed in the inside wall surface (15) of the groove, this surface facing the tongue surface (7). When the tongue (6) is inserted into the groove (12), the bead (8) projects into the detent recess (5) ~~whereby,~~ thereby enabling the bead (8) and the detent surface (4) to latch.